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**Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga Calls for Council
Committee to Oversee Proposed Expansion of 710 Freeway**

Long Beach – Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga will ask her colleagues on the Long Beach City Council to take constructive steps to protect residents by forming a Council Committee to oversee the proposed 710 expansion. Responding to comments delivered by Long Beach city staff at today's I-170 Corridor Study Technical Advisory Committee meeting, Councilmember Reyes Uranga stated, "I think considering the impacts to our neighborhoods and our residents should have been the highest priority from the beginning. It is unfortunate that so many families were not informed of the potential impacts of freeway expansion."

Councilmember Reyes Uranga would like the City Council to form a special Committee or direct an existing Council Committee to develop a Long Beach strategy and improve outreach efforts. While the City of Long Beach and the Port of Long Beach are members of the study group, there is no city entity designated to develop an appropriate policy direction for Long Beach. "I think today's statement is one small first step in the right direction," Reyes Uranga said, "but it is troubling that it took an outraged community to wake this City up and realize the serious impacts to our residents."

Many residents and community groups throughout the impacted areas have filled meeting halls to voice their concern over the lack of information. The majority of residents attending the meetings held by the Corridor Study Group say they first heard of the project from newspaper coverage. Over two hundred residents attended a meeting held by Councilmember Reyes Uranga to inform her constituents of the potential impacts—including the loss of property. In response to comments received at these meetings, the City of Long Beach issued a statement acknowledging that so-called "least cost" designs may in fact have unacceptable "costs", and urged the Corridor Study Group to reconsider "build" alternatives to minimize potential negative consequences.

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